

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are five (5) sheets of corrected formal drawings. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In FIGs. 1-3, the legend “Background Art” has been added.

In FIG. 1, the reference numeral “30” has been removed.

In FIG. 6, the reference numeral “54b” has been replaced with the reference numeral “54”.

In FIG. 8, the reference numeral “76” has been replaced with the reference numeral “70”.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1 and 3-18 are now present in the application. The specification, the abstract, the drawings, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 14-18 have been added. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 1 and the intervening claims 2, 4 and 5, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. Applicants have submitted five (5) sheets of corrected formal drawings and amended the specification to address the Examiner's requested changes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these objections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawings objections are respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The abstract has been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

In addition, the specification has also been amended to address the Examiner's objections to the drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is entered. Entry of the above amendments to the specification is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claim 1 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/721,321. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. In particular, the subject matter of claim 2 has been

incorporated into claim 1, and the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action did not reject claim 2 under obviousness-type double patenting. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 clearly defines over claim 1 of the '321 Application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under obviousness-type double patenting are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, all pending claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujiyama, U.S. Patent No. 4,977,298. Claims 2-5 and 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Fujiyama in view of Mironenko, GB 2178899 or Mironenko, FR 2581236. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "a lever structure between the corresponding button and switch to operate the switch by receiving an external force applied to the button, the lever structure including: a first lever receiving the external force to rotate about a first non-movable pivot point; and a second lever coupled with the first lever, the second lever rotating about a second non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the first lever rotates."

Support for the above combination of elements set forth in amended independent claim 1 can be found in FIGs. 5-10 as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements set forth in amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

The Examiner has correctly acknowledged that Fujiyama fails to teach two levers as recited in original claim 2 (now incorporated in claim 1). Therefore, Fujiyama fails to teach "the lever structure including: a first lever receiving the external force to rotate about a first non-movable pivot point; and a second lever coupled with the first lever, the second lever rotating about a second non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the first lever rotates" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Mironenko also fails to cure the deficiencies of Fujiyama. As shown in FIG. 1 of Mironenko, the right end of the actuating lever 4 is fixed to the base 1 as the pivot point of the actuating lever 4. In addition, the moveable right end of the contact lever 6 is connected to the

moveable left end of the actuating lever 4 at the point 16, and the moveable left end (the free end having the moveable contact 9) of the contact lever 6 is in contact with the immovable contact 2 or 3. As shown in FIG. 2 of Mironenko, when an external force is applied to the actuating lever 4, the actuating lever 4 rotates counterclockwise and forces the contact lever 6 (including the points 16 and 18) to move down. When the right end of the contact lever 6 goes down to a certain degree, the movable contact 9 will switch from the immovable contact 2 to the immovable contact 3 (see English translation, page 4, lines 49-51.) Therefore, the entire contact lever 6, including the points 16 and 18, the left end, and the right end, is moveable and does not rotate about a non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the actuating lever 4 rotates. Accordingly, Mironenko fails to teach “a second lever coupled with the first lever, the second lever rotating about a second non-movable pivot point to turn on/off the switch when the first lever rotates” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, none of the utilized references individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 clearly defines over the teachings of the utilized references.

In addition, claims 3-13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-13 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Claims 14-18 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectively submit that claims 14-18 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1, and is therefore allowable based on its dependence from amended independent claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Consideration and allowance of claims 14-18 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

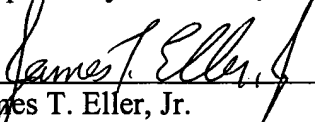
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant



Attachment: Replacement Sheets